

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 /030 W

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P 231920Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8410

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR CS

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION: APSA FLIGHT TO SAN JUAN

1. SUMMARY. COSTA RICAN ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S HELP IN EXPEDITING ACTION ON A REQUEST MADE BY A LOCAL AIRLINE TO DELIVER CARGO TO SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.

2. COSTA RICAN AIRLINE, AEROVIAS PUNTARENAS S.A. (APSA), HAS BEEN CONTRACTED TO DELIVER A SHIPMENT OF SOME 8,000 POUNDS OF FURNITURE TO SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO. THE FURNITURE IS OF COSTA RICAN MANUFACTURE AND WILL BE DISPLAYED AT AN EXHIBITION SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN SAN JUAN ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26. THE FURNITURE WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE SOLD IN PUERTO RICO. IN ORDER TO GET THE FURNITURE TO SAN JUAN IN TIME TO CLEAR PUERTO RICAN CUSTOMS, APAS PILOT AND MANAGER ELADIO SALAZAR BELIEVES HE WILL HAVE TO LAND BY NOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25.

3. APSA, ON ITS OWN, AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGIONAL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, COSESNA, HAS, OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, CABLED SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO LAND AND OFFLOAD CARGO AT SAN JUAN. AT THE SUGGESTION OF SAN JUAN AIRPORT AUTHORITIES, THESE CABLES WERE SENT TO THE CIVIL AVIATION BOARD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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4. AFTER NOT RECEIVING A RESPONSE FROM CAB TO ITS

INITIAL CABLES, CAB SENT A CABLE ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 22 REQUESTING THE DESTINATION OF THE APSA FLIGHT. APSA SENT OFF A CABLE IN RESPONSE AND IS NOW AWAITING FURTHER WORD FROM CAB. THE TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS PROVIDED BY CAB WAS KDCAYF.

5. CARLOS STRUNZ, THE COSTA RICAN ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, CALLED THE EMBASSY THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN AT THE DELAY IN RECEIVING A DECISION FROM THE CAB. HE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE TRADITIONALLY GIVEN PROMPT AND AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSES TO U.S. AIRCRAFT REQUESTING PERMISSION TO LAND IN COSTA RICA.

6. EMBASSY. EXPERIENCE CORROBORATES STRUNZ'S POINT RE PAST COOPERATION OF COSTA RICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES. WE SUSPECT THAT CURRENT DELAY MAY BE CAUSED BY UNCERTAINTY OF APSA ABOUT HOW TO PROPERLY FILE ITS REQUEST SINCE APSA IS NOT VERY ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT OF EMBASSY DESIRE RECIPROCATATE PAST COURTESIES EXTENDED BY LOCAL CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES AND CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN COOPERATIVE RELATIONS, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTACT CAB AND REQUEST THAT APSA REQUEST TO LAND AND OFFLOAD AT SAN JUAN AIRPORT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, BE EXPEDITED.
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